

Agenda Item; Food Festival Market Stalls Submitted by; Tina Faloon (Assistant Town Clerk)
Approval 1. To approve the recommendations outlined below.
Purpose of the Report 2. To note amendments to the proposed provision of stalls and layout for the Winter Food Festival on the 4 th December 2022.
Background Information 3.1 The Council has offered traders the option of renting 'Council' stalls at the Food Festivals for many years; these have been offered at the cost of £80. Traders can also bring their own gazebo and tables and the agreed costs are £130 for a 3m x 3m gazebo and £260 for a 6m x 3m gazebo. 3.2 The previous stalls contractor charged the Council £1700 to supply and erect 40 stalls, a cost of £42.50 a stall. They are no longer trading and have just advised us that they cannot supply or erect stalls this Winter. 3.3 An alternative contractor, The Stall Hire Company, has been approached but are unavailable for the date. Their charge would have been £2,680 for 40 stalls, a cost of £67.00 a stall. 3.4 Offering Council stalls for the price of £80, with an associated cost of £67.00 does not represent value for money. It is also likely that traders are opting to hire Council stalls because they are the cheapest option and because the erection and dismantling is done for them. 3.5 It is suspected that the majority of regular traders actually own their own gazebos and tables but this is unconfirmed. 3.6 In addition, we currently apply for a road closure which is in place from 5.00 am to 8.00 pm (for the Winter Festival) to enable the safe erection and dismantling of the stalls. If traders are erecting their own gazebos, the road closure can be restricted to 6.30 am to 7.00 pm which will reduce inconvenience to local residents and commercial premises.
Legislation N/A
Accessibility Implications – There are no accessibility implications for this proposal.
Climate Emergency Implications - There are no accessibility implications for this proposal.

Financial Implications

The Council would benefit from a cost saving of between £1700 and £2,680 for each Food Festival, in addition to reduced staff overtime costs associated with reduced on-site hours on Food Festival day.

Recommendations

- a) that for the Winter Food Festival this year the Council do not offer 'council' stalls to traders.
- b) that Traders will be invited to book a pitch for either a 3m x 3m or 6m x 3m gazebo at the cost of £130 and £260 respectively.
- c) that Traders will be expected to supply, erect and dismantle their own gazebo and tables, in line with a layout plan provided by the Council, with monitoring and assistance provided by the Outdoor Team, Rotary Club stewards, Councillor stewards and the Town Council office stewards.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

Provision of 'council' stalls cannot be arranged in time for the Winter Food Festival because of the lack of availability of contractors who can supply and erect stalls; it does not represent value for money for the Council; and it unnecessarily extends the length of time that the road closure needs to be in place.